

REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



To: Edina Transportation Commission

Agenda Item #: VI. A.

From: Mark K. Nolan, AICP, Transportation Planner

Action ☐

Discussion ☒

Date: February 20, 2014

Information ☒

Subject: Active Transportation Bike/Pedestrian Education and Bicycle Parking Action Plan

Action Requested:

No action requested.

Information / Background:

The City of Bloomington Public Health contracted with the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota (BikeMN) to provide analysis and feedback to make short-term changes and evaluate long-term strategies so that the communities of Bloomington, Richfield and Edina may become more bicycle friendly. This provided a foundation for BikeMN to identify community plan recommendations relevant in these cities in the active transportation areas of bicycle parking, policy and planning as well as Bicycle and Pedestrian Education.

On October 23, 2013 BikeMN (along with the Minnesota Department of Health and MnDOT) hosted a Bikeable Community Workshop. Several City staff, elected officials and commission members attended the event, which included an interactive presentation of how the "5 Es of Bike Friendly Communities" (Evaluation, Engineering, Education, Enforcement and Encouragement) are used to improve bike-friendliness. In addition, a mobile workshop (a 5-mile bike ride through Edina) was conducted and an exercise was facilitated to get stakeholders to discuss ideas for an action plan.

The Active Transportation Bike/Pedestrian Education and Bicycle Parking Action Plan is the culmination of these efforts. The plan – currently in draft stage – outlines action strategies, steps, responsible parties and timelines, with the goal of increasing the bicycle friendliness of the City. Nick Mason of BikeMN will give a presentation of the Plan and will answer questions and solicit feedback from the ETC.

Attachments:

Draft Active Transportation Bike/Pedestrian Education and Bicycle Parking Action Plan

Active Transportation Bike/Pedestrian Education and Bicycle Parking Action Plan

Prepared for:

City of Edina

January, 2014

Draft

Acknowledgements:

This plan to increase bike parking and improve bicycle and pedestrian education is the result of the hard work and engagement of many partners in the city of Edina:

Katherine Bass, Ross Bintner, Eric Boettcher, Mary Brindle, Val Burke, Carrie Cabe, Susan Faus, Jordan Gilgenbach, Jennifer Janovy, Ann Kattreh, Kate Meredith, Chad Millner, Mark Nolan, Brian Olson, Josh Spague, Cary Teague, and Kay Zuccaro

This plan was prepared by The Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota and is made possible through funding from the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) of the Minnesota Department of Health. For more information, visit

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/ship>.



Background:

City of Edina staff and citizens have taken a clear interest in moving forward with a new focus on active transportation. This momentum remains one of Edina's best assets. With the renewed energy and focus of the Bike Edina Task Force, new & engaged staff, and invested public officials much can be accomplished to shape the future accessibility, acceptance of and participation in bicycling and walking. However, stakeholders agreed collectively that one of the biggest barriers to bicycling in the city was a lack of cultural acceptance for bicycling and walking. Therefore, Edina needs to make policy, systems, and environmental changes that will make it easier and more accepted for people to be more active in their everyday lives.

Through active living initiatives, active living and bike friendly workshops, and input from stakeholders and community partners, two areas have been identified to focus on: increasing bicycle parking and bicycle and pedestrian safety education. Stakeholders and community partners prioritized improvements in these two areas to complement the on-street and trail improvements in City parks. To assist in identifying the next steps in these two areas, Bloomington Public Health contracted with BikeMN to assist city and community stakeholders in developing a plan for these improvements in the City of Edina as a part of SHIP II. These improvements align with feedback on Edina's Bicycle Friendly Community application from the League of American Bicyclists, which was received in 2010.

Approach:

BikeMN has undertaken a 4-step approach in assisting in this process:

1. Conducted best practice research on proven, efficient policies and programs for building bicycle parking infrastructure and implementing sustainable safety education strategies (Spring/ Summer 2013)
2. Initial stakeholder engagement including a meeting and individual outreach (Summer 2013)
3. Bikeable Community Workshop was provided for city staff and other community stakeholders to further explore these strategies (Fall 2013)
4. Final plan developed based on these discussions and presentation to community decision makers (Winter 2013-14)

Stakeholders provided individual and collective input on the direction of their community's strategies for success over the next two years through the kickoff meeting, comments, and the Bikeable Community Workshop held in the Fall of 2013. These recommended actions are based on models of best practices that have been researched and identified by stakeholders as efficient and effective investments to facilitate long-term improvements for bicycling and walking in Edina.

Action Strategy Descriptions

Active Transportation Education

In all stages of planning for more active transportation, cultural acceptance and education have been identified as key barriers.

1. Youth: In-School Education

The City of Edina and Edina Public Schools are in final stages of developing a district-wide comprehensive Active Routes to School Plan, which includes recommendations for improving in-school bike and pedestrian education. This strategy involves encouraging the District to pilot the new MnDOT Walk! Bike! Fun! Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Curriculum in select schools for the intended audience of grades K-6.

2. Local Bicycle Safety Instructors

Stakeholders have identified the need to have a self-sustaining system and leadership for education within the community. By training certified instructors, Edina can begin to plan and execute regular annual education and outreach activities around active transportation and recreation. These instructors will help to craft and implement a regular annual education plan of classes, events, and youth education that includes initiatives within this plan and more to be identified later.

3. Fund & Launch a Public Education Campaign

Dialogue with the larger community has been identified as a need to improve an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of all road users as they use public right of way. Fostering acceptance of biking and walking as a regular part of daily life in Edina are also desired outcomes. The City is currently developing tools for a community engagement campaign to increase Living Streets awareness through multimedia outreach strategies. Additional activities are identified here to complement these activities.

4. Motorist Engagement

Recognizing that most residents who own bikes also own cars and that those who do not own bicycles only may get around in motor vehicles, educational outreach must target motorists and their understanding of how to safely drive around bicycles.

5. Outreach: Open Streets Event

Stakeholders strongly identified repeatedly cited issues of cultural acceptance of bicycling and walking as barriers to change, particularly with senior populations. Successful Open Streets Events across the state have drawn thousands of community participants of all ages to get out, get active and get to know their neighbors and support local business.

Bike Parking

1. Provide Bike Parking at Established City Events

Guiding residents to come to established city events such as the farmer's market must include a component that there is a safe, convenient place to park just as there is for residents who choose to drive to events. By publicizing available parking, providing incentives, and utilizing temporary bike parking racks, Edina can begin to establish regular opportunities for active transportation trips.

2. Parking inventory & Policy Goal for Increase

Stakeholders and previous planning work has identified a lack of permanent bike parking as a major barrier to choosing bicycling for transportation trips throughout Edina. To move forward on efforts to increase bicycle parking, the city must benchmark its current bike parking with an accurate inventory and then establish a goal and prioritize areas of increase. It will take time, but Edina can work towards much greater city-wide bike parking availability.

3. Update city new and redevelopment codes on bike parking

Knowing that development is a constant and that the city has already begun some notable improvements in bike parking requirements with development projects, further updates can provide no cost parking increases across the city as has been done in Saint Louis Park, Minneapolis and many other communities. The goals are: provide enough bike parking to start or require proof of parking for future needs and make sure that designs used are meet standards for functionality and safety (Association of Bicycle and Pedestrian guidelines). Model policies included in appendix.

Action Strategy	Action Steps	Lead & Partners	Timeline
Active Routes To School education	Show Walk! Bike! Fun! Curriculum to select elementary and middle schools	Edina Public Schools (EPS), Edina Community Education (ECE)	Feb-Apr. 2014
	Send interested teachers/ support staff from selected schools to free spring training(s); consider engaging police department	EPS, ECE	Mar-April 2014
	Teach curriculum first time in community ed classes at select schools	EPS, ECE	May-Oct 2014
	Bike to Parks event	ECE, Parks	April-May 2014
	Bike to School event: engage police staff	EPS	May-14
	Include ARTS in Active Streets Implementation Plan	Engineering staff	Feb-Oct 14
Local bicycle safety instructors	Community outreach to identify interested individuals	Bike Edina, BikeMN	Nov '13-March '14
	Schedule Traffic Skills 101 class	Bike Edina, Engineering staff, BikeMN	mar-April '14
	Send individuals to spring League Cycling Instructor Training	Bike Edina, Engineering staff	May-14
	Draft community plan for education; Utilize existing summer education programming for youth and adults	Bike Edina, instructors, ECE, Parks	Summer '14
	Certified instructors regularly to stay on track; implement initial plan	Bike Edina, instructors, ECE, Parks	Begin Summer '14
Fund & Launch a public education campaign: includes bicycle operation, motor vehicle laws, and whys of active transportation	Create Pocket Guide: biking around town (parks)	Engineering staff, ETC Communications Committee, Communications staff	Jan-May '14
	Education on Sidewalk riding; Evaluate changing city ordinance with engagement of police	Bike Edina, ETC Communications Committee, City council, Engineering, Communications staff	Feb-July '14
	Seasonal weekly or bi-monthly rides with elected officials including the mayor to showcase existing facilities	Bike Edina, City council, Parks	May-Aug '14
Outreach: Open Streets Event	Engage potential planning partners and experts: Richfield, Blue Cross/ Blue Shield; engage other city staff: Bill N., Arts & Culture committee, Park Board	Bike Edina, Engineering staff, Parks	Feb 14-July '15
	Event Planning, approvals	Bike Edina, Engineering staff, Parks, City Council	June-Aug '15
	Host Open Streets: potential on 50th street from Woodale to France	Bike Edina, Engineering staff, Parks	September '15

Action Strategy	Bike Parking		Timeline
	Action Steps	Staff Lead(s)	
Parking Inventory & Policy Goal for increase: Prioritize Schools	Utilize intern(s) and or staff to catalogue racks	Engineering staff	April-June '14
	Label type, numbers of spaces, location into GIS, include final detail in public city map	Engineering staff	May-Sept '14
	Prioritize gaps and begin filling: schools first	Engineering staff, EPS	start June '14
Establish Bike Parking Cost Share program	Use plan tools to incorporate into capital budget; planning documents; engage with Bill N	Engineering staff, city council	Feb-Nov '14
Update city code(s) to maximize low-/no-cost bike parking while meeting best practice standards	Review Action Plan tools	Engineering staff, city council	Feb '14
	Modify for Edina specific needs; Include Proof of Parking detail for new and redevelopment; engaging Planning dept, ETC	Engineering staff, city council	Feb-Mar 14
	Pass ordinance change	Engineering staff, city council	Mar- June '14

Long Term Solutions:

Upon reviewing best practice solutions, stakeholders identified some strategies that would not be feasible within the next 1-2 years, but could be put into effective work plans beyond that timeframe. These strategies can be reevaluated once short term strategies are in place.

Appendixes and related documents:

1. Smart Cycling curriculum overview
2. Walk! Bike! Fun! overview
3. Model Bike Parking Policy
4. Model Bike Parking Cost Share Framework

Additional Resources

AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 3rd Ed.:

https://bookstore.transportation.org/item_details.aspx?ID=104

Adventure Cycling Association: Largest bicycle organization in the world with more than 40,000 members whose mission is to inspire people of all ages to travel by bicycle.

<http://adventurecycling.org/>

Alliance for Biking & Walking: National organization that creates, strengthens and unites state/province and local bicycle and pedestrian advocacy organizations.

<http://www.peoplepoweredmovement.org/>

Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota: Bike friendly technical assistance, advocacy and education.

<http://www.bikemn.org>

Bike Month Planning Guide: Published by the League of American Bicyclists, used throughout MN. http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/bikemonth/pdf/national_bike_month_guide.pdf

Bike Walk Twin Cities Count Report: Metrics and reports for collecting and using data.

<http://www.bikewalktwincities.org/news-events/bicycling-and-walking-count-results>

Complete Streets Coalitions: Planning & passing local policies

National CS Coalition: <http://www.completestreets.org/>

Minnesota CS Coalition: <http://www.mncompletestreets.org/>

League of American Bicyclists: Bicycle Friendly Community Resource page has a comprehensive list of resources across all of the Five E's.

<http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/bicyclefriendlyamerica/communities/Technical%20Assistance.php>

Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee: See how the most active BAC in Minnesota works. <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles/bac>

MnDOT Bikeways Facility Design Manual: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/bike/designmanual.html>

National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Urban Bikeways Design Manual:

Provides cities with state-of-the-practice solutions that can help create complete streets that are safe and enjoyable for bicyclists. <http://nacto.org/cities-for-cycling/design-guide/>

Open Streets Project: National organization for Open Streets events planning.

<http://openstreetsproject.org/>

Safe Routes to School Minnesota: Now accepting grant requests (until Apr 27th) for planning assistance and implementation. <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/saferoutes/>

Safe Routes to School National Partnership: Advocate for safe walking and bicycling to and from schools, and in daily life, to improve the health and well-being of America's children and to foster the creation of livable, sustainable communities. <http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/>

Share the Road Minnesota: Minnesota rules, crash data, and safety information. Order free materials for adults and kids. <http://www.sharetheroadmn.org>